

**SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE**  
**PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**

**PRESS CLIPPINGS**

**Enclosed are clippings of local and international press on the Special Court and related issues obtained by the Press and Public Affairs Office as of:**

Friday, 9 December 2005

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.  
If you are aware of omissions or have any comments or suggestions please contact  
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# *Bo Magistrate slams...* **Le5.5 billion bail on Margai and others**

Legal luminary and interim leader of the yet to be registered Peoples Movement for Democratic Change (PMDC), Charles Francis Margai and ten others yesterday made their first appearance at the Bo magistrate court, presided over by Magistrate Deen Tarawalie.

The PMDC leader who was arrested in Freetown on Wednesday this week on warrant was jointly charged with ten of his supporters on eleven count charges including conspiracy, riotous conduct under the Public Order Act of 1965, unlawful gathering and using

insulting words against the vice President Mr. Solomon Berewa.

The other accused persons included S.K. Foyor, John Bockarie, Mohamed Borbor Sanor, Lamin V. Ngobeh, Albert Aruna, Joe Kamanda Bongay, Sidikie Janneh, Samuel J. Peter Stevens, Mamic Bockarie and Rachael Lagowo.

Defence lawyer, Mr. Ausu Lansana, applied for bail to be granted to the accused persons, noting that the first accused (Charles Margai) is a senior citizen of this country and a reputable member of the Sierra Leone Bar Association.

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*Charles Margai... under seige*

# Le5.5. billion bail for Margai and others

FROM PAGE 1

On the other accused persons, Lawyer Lansana informed the court that they are all citizens of this country with respectable characters, adding that there are respectable citizens to stand sureties for each of the accused persons, as the alleged offences committed by his clients are bailable offences.

Considering the application, the presiding magistrate granted a stiff bail to each of the accused person in the sum of Le 500 million leones each and two sureties who must be property owners resident in Bo Town in the southern province.

The magistrate further ordered that all travel documents of each

of the accused and sureties must be surrendered in court and the bail be approved by the LUC in Bo.

The prosecution, which was conducted by State Counsel Monfred Sesay did not oppose the granting of bail.

It will be recalled that lawyer Charles Margai and ten others of the PMDC were dragged to court for illegal alleged events that took place during a thanksgiving ceremony of Christ the King College (CKC) in BO some three weeks ago.

Hearing was adjourned to December 19.

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# APC leader expresses concern over Margai's arrest

*BY SANTIGIE KAMARA*

**F**ollowing the recent arrest of the leader of yet to be registered People's Movement for Democratic Change (PMDC), Mr. Charles Francis Margai and a number of his supporters in Freetown on Wednesday 7th of December 2005 was arrested by CID officers, who charged them on eleven counts for trial in Bo, the minority leader in parliament and leader of the APC, Hon. Ernest Bai Koroma has expressed grave concern at the manner in which

the authorities are behaving.

Hon. Bai Koroma maintained that because of the need for a democratic dispensation he was going to brief the British High Commissioner and the America Ambassador in Sierra Leone on the negative development, which he insisted was a demonstration of the government's inability to accommodate opposition.

He also noted that he was taking the matter to the international community because of the

*CONTINUED PAGE 11*

# **APC leader**

## **expresses concern**

### **FROM PAGE 1**

need and desire of the people of this country for peace and democracy, noting that the attitude of the government was definitely not conducive to the promotion of peace and security for all.

Meanwhile, Charles Margai and other are said to have appeared at the Bo magistrate court on 11 count charges ranging from riotous conduct to incitement, all of which are believed to be in contravention of the 1965 Public Order Act.

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# 500 million Bail for Margai and 10 Others

*By John Abu in Bo*  
**C**harles Francis Margai and ten others were yesterday arraigned before Magistrate Mange Deen Tarawally at the Bo Magistrate Court No.1 on eleven count charges ranging from conspiracy, holding public meeting without notifying the Paramount Chief, functioning as a political party without registering,



*Lawyer Charles Francis Margai*

insulting conduct, inciting riotous conduct and various others.

All accused persons pleaded not guilty and were granted bail in the sum of Le500, 000.000.00 each, two sureties in like sum. The surety is to be

resident in Bo town and to be approved by a Police constable not below the rank of a Police Commissioner.

The 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 6th accused persons should surrender their passports to the court as against the next adjournment date. Each of the surety of the sureties

of the 4th, 5th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th accused persons should be property owners in Bo and should surrender their title deeds to the court as against the next adjournment date.

The first accused Charles Francis Margai, while

*Contd. Page 2*

# 500 million Bail for Margai and 10 Others

**From Front Page** appealing for self bail, said there was equality of law under the arms, and requested for bail to be granted him in accordance with Section 79 of the Criminal Procedure Act, noting that the alleged offences for which they were standing trial were summary offences. He appealed to the court to have copy of charges to be served on them before the next adjournment.

Charles Margai told the court that he had held responsible positions such as Minister of Local Government and Internal Affairs and National President of the Sierra Leone Bar Association, adding that he was one of the Senior Barristers in the country with 34 years to his credit. "I am the lead counsel for Allieu Kondewa at the Special Court with a battery of Lawyers under my directive".

Third accused Arrow John Bockarie and sixth accused Aggrey Albert Aruna also made application for self bail. The prosecuting counsel said that he was not objecting to bail but that he might object to self bail, arguing that if the accused persons were granted self bail and later jumped it, it would frustrate the court.

Defense counsels for the 2,4,5,7,8,9,10 and 11 accused persons also applied for bail. Particulars of Offence: Charles Francis Margai, Sahr Kobio Foyoh, Arrow John Bockarie, Mohamed Bobor Sannoh, Lamin Vonjoe Ngobeh, Aggrey Albert Aruna, Edward Joe Kamanda Bongay Jr, Sidikie Janneh, Samuel Joseph Peter Stevens, Mamie Bockarie and Rachael Lagawo (aka Baby Four) on diverse days between the 12th and the 18th day of November, 2005 at Bo in the

Kakua Chiefdom in the Bo Judicial district in the southern province of the Republic of Sierra Leone, conspired together and with other persons unknown to cause members and supporters of the People's Movement for Democratic Change (PMDC), an association not registered as a political party in the said Bo town by assembling members and supporters in orange apparels which is reputed to be part of the symbol of the said association.

Count Two- Statement of offence: Holding a public meeting in the provinces without notifying the Paramount Chief of the chiefdom contrary to section 24(1) of the Public Order Act, 1965.

Particulars of offence: Mohamed Borbor Sannoh and Sahr Kobio Foyoh, Arrow John Bockarie, Lamin Vonjoe Ngobeh, Aggrey Albert Aruna, Edward Joe Kamanda Bongay, Sidikie Janneh, Samuel Joseph Peter Stevens, Mamie Bockarie and Rachael Lagawo (aka Baby Four) and other

unknown persons on or about the 15th day of November, 2005 at Bo in the Kakua chiefdom Bo Judicial district of the southern province of the Republic of Sierra Leone held a meeting as members and supporters of an association known as the People's Movement for Democratic Change (PMDC) without first notifying the Paramount Chief of Kakua chiefdom.

The first accused Charles Francis Margai, the third accused Arrow John Bockarie and Sixth accused Aggrey Albert Aruna all applied for self representation. The second, fourth, fifth, seventh, eighth, ninth, tenth and eleventh accused persons were represented by defence counsels Ansu B. Lansana and Robert B. Kowa.

State Counsel and Customary law Officer Monfred Sesay was represented the Inspector General of Police.

The court was adjourned to 19th December 2005.

## Salone team lauded at Moot Court contest

Although they are not the eventual winners, the Sierra Leone team making their debut in the International Moot Court competition in International Humanitarian Law in Arusha, Tanzania have left their footprints in the sand of time. The three-man team of Osman Jalloh, Gerald Cole and Drucil Taylor said despite they did not win they had a great experience and it had offered them an opportunity to confront some of the finest

minds in Africa who are expected to be the leaders of tomorrow.

According to a Press Release from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the three students emphasised, "we want to help the students who will represent our country next year." Concerning their future, they expressed the wish to continue the exploration of the International Humanitarian Law (IHL)



## Cocorioko website

[http://www.cocorioko.com/\\_news](http://www.cocorioko.com/_news)

### **Margai released on Le 500m bail**

By Chernor Ojuku Sesay  
Cocorioko Correspondent in Freetown

Thursday December 8 , 2005

The Interim leader of the unregistered Peoples Movement for Democratic Change (PMDC), Charles Francis Margai and eleven of his supporters were this morning granted bail of Le500m each with three sureties in like sum at the Bo town magistrate court.

Speaking to this correspondent on phone on his way back to Freetown, Margai said he had been anticipating his arrest and laughed over what he termed as the ridiculous bail condition. "As a lawyer of 32 years practice, even if we were found guilty of the 11 count charges against us, the fine will not exceed Le300,000. I really wonder whether some of these magistrates do think at all", he said on phone.

Margai said he was whisked to Bo yesternight via the Makeni/Yele road. "They were afraid to pass through the main highway. They only know why they are afraid", he added.

A correspondent in Bo working for KISS 104FM told this correspondent that Bo town was virtually on public holiday this morning as neither banks nor shops were opened. Schools remained closed as armed OSD personnel were stationed at strategic positions around the township.

He disclosed that after Margai was released on bail, thousands of his supporters thronged the streets of Bo in jubilation and chased his motor convoy to his residence where he addressed them and told them to remain calm, maintain the peace and be steadfast.

He was given a tumultuous welcome by his supporters when he arrived in Freetown in the evening hours.

Opposition leader in Parliament and leader of the APC, Hon Ernest Bai Koroma outrightly condemned the arrest of Charles Margai an act he described as politically motivated. He warned the police to remain neutral in their execution of duties and cited instances when the APC supporters were prevented from holding a meeting in Segbewema and the police could not effect any arrest despite the official report simply because it involved SLPP supporters.

Hon. Koroma added that Margai was charged under the 1965 Public Order Act which he described as obnoxious and said most of the charges are duplicated. He added the APC will come out with a position statement on the Margai arrest. He said such a practice must not be encouraged at this present time when both the peace and democracy in the

country are still fragile and the UNAMSIL forces will be leaving the shores of this country on 31st December this year.

In Freetown on Wednesday evening, police had running battles with Margai supporters at the CID HQ where Margai was detained before whisked to Bo. Some of the vehicles parked within the CID had their windscreens damaged (pictures) and the police had to release teargas canisters to disperse the rioters. The rioters used stones and metals to create road blocks along Siaka Stevens street.

The matter has been adjourned to December 19th in Bo.



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## A Dirty War in West Africa - the RUF And the Destruction of Sierra Leone

Concord Times (Freetown)

NEWS

December 8, 2005

Posted to the web December 8, 2005

By Lansana Gberie  
Freetown

Lansana Gberie's detailed account of the rebel war in Sierra Leone clears away many of the misconceptions about the conflict as he provides the most lucid explanation of what he describes as "the RUF phenomenon".

This small West African country was the scene of some of the worst atrocities witnessed in Africa at the end of the last century. During the 11 years between 1991 and 2002, well over 50,000 people were killed, thousands were mutilated in a conflict symbolised by the systematic chopping off of hands and legs, one in three of the population of 5 million were displaced as thousands of homes were destroyed and villages raised to the ground. The reasons why it proved so difficult to find a lasting resolution to the conflict was because so many, especially in the international community, failed initially to regard it as a sub-regional conflict. They kept trying to treat the rebel RUF (Revolutionary United Front) led by Foday Sankoh, the former Army corporal and erstwhile photographer, as something it never was. It suited the international community to treat the conflict as an internal "civil war" with the RUF as another of those well meaning liberation movements fighting against oppression and corruption, as had been experienced in places like Guinea Bissau and Uganda.

Some earlier scholars became "experts" on the RUF without even bothering to talk to the rebels. Gberie is able to draw upon his first-hand experiences as a Sierra Leone journalist covering the early days of the rebel war. He had actually met and interviewed Sankoh and dozens of other members of the RUF. He then applied his scholarly research while based in Canada and West Africa to produce this well-informed and very readable book. Some others, as the British Foreign Office researcher, Dr Lillian Wong, has noted, "put a romantic gloss on a very brutal group of people, interpreted what they believed the RUF stood for - and got it wrong." Gberie gets it right. He conceives the RUF as largely a mercenary enterprise, describing them as bandits and the movement as essentially a sub warlord system, under the direction of Charles Taylor in Liberia and influenced by Gaddafi in Libya. He helps explain why the RUF were so excessively brutal and resorted to the mass recruitment and indoctrination of children, who were devoid of political thought and ideology. The RUF was indeed more like a cult, with Foday Sankoh its messianic despotic leader.

Sankoh is described in the book by President Kabbah of Sierra Leone as "the most treacherous and evil man he had to deal with in 40 years of public service." By contrast, Jesse Jackson, President Clinton's "ambassador for democracy in Africa", compared Sankoh to Nelson Mandela and encouraged the US Government to force Kabbah to share power with Sankoh in the ill-fated Lome Peace agreement. When the fears of Kabbah and the Sierra Leone people that Sankoh could not be trusted proved to be accurate and led to further mayhem and atrocities, the Americans then made a 180 degree turn and pressured the Kabbah government to establish a war crimes tribunal, the Sierra Leone Special Court, and indict Sankoh for crimes against humanity!

Gberie's previous book which he co-authored, "The Heart of the Matter: Sierra Leone, Diamonds and Human Security", helped reveal the extent to which diamonds fuelled the conflict and the role played by the Liberian warlord, Charles Taylor. For too long this aspect of the conflict was ignored by the international community, notwithstanding the fact that between 1994 and 1999 Belgian figures alone registered more than \$2 billion worth of diamonds were imported reputedly from Liberia, although at the very best of times Liberia never surpassed \$10 million in exports of diamonds.

The publication of Gberie's book coincides with that of another excellent book on the Sierra Leone conflict, David Keen's "Conflict and Collusion in Sierra Leone". Keen's book attempts an academic analysis of all the causes which led to this "bloody war" with in depth analysis of all the players. Gberie focuses primarily on the RUF but he still gives useful insights into the positive roles played by others such as Executive Outcomes,(the South African based security firm), Ecomog, the British, and especially the Civil Defence Force (CDF) and its coordinator Chief Hinga Norman, whom he also interviewed.

Gberie concludes his book with some observations upon the Sierra Leone Special Court and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Sierra Leone is the only country in the world in which both a Special War Crimes Tribunal and a TRC have been established as part of the conflict resolution process. (Other conflicts such as in Mozambique have been successfully resolved without recourse to either.) Whereas the TRC has successfully completed its findings and published its report, the Special Court continues its tortuous proceedings even though Sankoh and his main henchman Sam Bockarie (alias Mosquito) are dead, as is probably the leader of the illegal AFRC junta, Johnny Paul Koroma. Chief Hinga Norman is the only person of note who is detained and he remains to many a hero who helped restore peace and democracy to the country. His continued detention remains a grave injustice. The Court remains hopeful of snaring Charles Taylor into its lair but, although as Gberie's book shows he was undoubtedly one of those bearing the greatest responsibility for the atrocities in Sierra Leone, there are many who are concerned that Taylor's appearance in the Special Court at this time could disturb the fragile peace which the sub-region enjoys.

They prefer to remain grateful to President Obasanjo for keeping a watchful eye on Taylor in Nigeria.

As part of the peace process, Sierra Leone became the scene for the largest United Nations peace operation in the world. (Gberie and I were both members of a team of experts which produced a report on the UN operation to look at lessons learned.) It took this UN presence and before that the Ecomog force led by Nigeria and a significant involvement of British forces before President Kabbah was finally able to declare in November 2002 "di wor don don" (the war is over). Since then Sierra Leoneans have been trying to put the past behind them. But they are still waiting for the "peace dividend" as they struggle with their miserable lives. There are worrying signs of corruption and mismanagement still around. Development has given way to politicking for the 2007 elections.

The unemployed disaffected youth are still hanging around the streets of Freetown - waiting for another Sankoh and RUF to appear? It is to be hoped that Lansana Gberie's excellent book will help alert people to such dangers and ensure that such "a phenomenon" does not arise again.

*Peter Penfold was Former British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone 1997-2000 November 2005*

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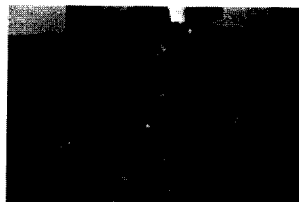
# Daily OBSERVER

Ellen to Meet US State Dept. Officials Today  
By Sam Togba Slewion

Published: **08 December, 2005**

**MONROVIA, December 8 --**

President-elect Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf's visit to the United States comes at the heels of her just-ended tour of six African countries including Nigeria, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Ivory Coast and Mali,



Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf where she met with African leaders and apprised them of her Administration's agenda for her country emerging out of a 14-year civil war.

She also solicited the assistance of African leaders and regional financial institutions, including the African Development Bank to help create a viable conducive environment to revive the Liberian economy.

Her itinerary in the United States is expected to include a visit to the United Nations, where she worked as Director of the Africa Bureau of the United Nations Development Program in the early and mid 90s. There she will discuss her development agenda for war-ravaged Liberia.

She is also expected to visit Washington, D.C., where she will meet with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice who, like Madam Sirleaf, is one of world's most powerful women. The visit to the State Department is based upon the special invitation of Secretary of State Rice, who is also making history as the first African-American woman to occupy the most senior American cabinet post, that of Secretary of State.

The details of their agenda have not yet been revealed, but there are reports that the discussion will focus on many bilateral issues between the US and Liberia, two historical and longstanding traditional friends. The talks will most likely include an improvement in those relations and how the two nations can work together to revive the Liberian economy and society as a whole.

Madam Sirleaf's talks with Secretary of State Rice may also include the extradition of former war lord, Charles Taylor, to Sierra Leone to face trial for alleged war crimes. He has already been indicted by the Court with an arrest warrant hanging over his head.

The former Liberian leader is now in exile in Calabar, Nigeria, based on a deal brokered between the United States and Nigeria, which has insisted that Taylor will only be turned over to an elected Government in Liberia, if the Liberian government makes such a request. But the Nigerian government continues to come under mounting pressure from the UN, EU and the United States to let Taylor go to Sierra Leone and exonerate himself from the charges brought against him by the Special Court.

President George Bush, in a recent telephone call to President-Elect Sirleaf congratulated her on her election. But, according to Edward Burrier, acting coordinator of the Foreign Policy Press Office of US Congressman, Ed Royce, the US leader also raised the importance of bringing Taylor to justice. Congressman Royce is also reported to have written Ellen Sirleaf, asking that she immediately call upon the Nigerian Government to transfer Taylor to the custody of the Special Court in Sierra Leone.

But the President-elect, who received President Bush's call in Abuja, Nigeria, told Liberian journalists that she and the U.S. leader agreed to permit the new Liberian government first to take its seat, stabilize things in the country, and then deal with such delicate matters later. President Bush agreed, she said.

Madam Sirleaf is also expected to visit the World Bank, where she served for many years, and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Her talks with these two most powerful financial institutions is expected to center around Liberia's economic and social development following 14 years of civil strife, and, as with the State Department, the forgiving of Liberia's \$3 billion plus external debt.

Aside from the diplomatic headaches, President-Elect Sirleaf is expected to be pampered and showered with honors by some US-based organizations, including the Leon H. Sullivan Foundation and Liberians for Ellen (LIFE), a non-political civic group which was very active in raising funds for her campaign in the United States. The events are slated to take place during her visits to four States, including Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, Boston and Philadelphia.

On December 14, she will attend a dinner in her honor hosted by the Sullivan Foundation in Washington, D.C. Guests for the occasion will include prominent representatives from the US government and business communities, according a press release issued by the Foundation. "We are going to give the President-elect the opportunity to talk about the way forward for Liberia and her vision for what the future holds," Hope Masters of the Sullivan Foundation told the press recently.

In Philadelphia, plans for the LIFE program slated for December 17 are underway, and there is yet no confirmation

from the leaders of the organization as to whether President - Elect Sirleaf will be attending the event. But the venue for the occasion (a prestigious hotel) and the admission fees being charged (\$50 per person) point to the presence of Ellen Sirleaf at the occasion, where she is expected to thank her supporters in Philadelphia for a victorious campaign.

Her visit to Boston will witness similar gestures and meeting with authorities at her alma mater, Harvard University. She will also meet with government officials and the Liberian community in Los Angeles, California.

Madam Sirleaf will meet with the foreign press during a Press Conference on Thursday, December 15 at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. The Conference will take place at 2 p.m. in the Press Club's Zenger Room. According to a Press Club release, which is signed by Peter Hickman, Vice Chairman of the National Press Club Newsmaker Committee, the Liberian President-elect "will address several key issues of post-elections in Liberia, including the allegation of irregularities in the elections that brought her to power."

There are also reports that she will be seeking medical attention in the United States to obtain a clean-bill of health as she prepares to officially take over leadership of Liberia for six years on January 16, 2006.

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**UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 8 Dec 2005**

*[The media summaries and press clips do not necessarily represent the views of UNMIL.]*

**International Clips on Liberia**

12/08/2005 07:40:02

**Liberia's Johnson-Sirleaf embarks on U.S. visit**

Monrovia (dpa)- Liberia's president-elect Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf was en-route Thursday to the United States, on a visit to the West African country's largest donor and longtime ally. Sources from within Johnson-Sirleaf's Unity Party told Deutsche Presse-Agentur dpa Thursday she was traveling to the U.S. at the invitation of Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

NewsEdge Corporation 12/08/2005 04:02:44

**Economic policy: BMA is investigated for corruption**

Economist Intelligence Unit Country Report

As part of efforts to restore public accountability, investigations are continuing into financial irregularities at the Bureau for Maritime Affairs (BMA). The BMA is the government agency responsible for maritime funds, which are largely received from the Liberian International Ship and Corporate Registry (LISCR), a shipping registry based in Virginia, in the US.

The UN Panel of Experts has previously accused the BMA of a lack of transparency in its accounting and of taking part in extra-budgetary activities. The EU, which is overseeing various audits of Liberian institutions, sponsored an audit of the BMA by a UK accountancy company, Moore Stevens. The audit uncovered a number of irregular payments, some of which appear to have been authorized by Mr. Bryant.

**IRISH INDEPENDENT** December 07, 2005

**Troops in Liberia to be re-deployed**

BY Tom Brady, Security Editor

THE Government has given the go-ahead for the redeployment to Sierra Leone of some of the Irish peacekeeping troops currently serving in Liberia. The Irish and the Swedes have been asked by the United Nations to jointly provide a force of around 150 troops to carry out a number of security roles in Sierra Leone from the start of next month. Approval was given yesterday by the Cabinet after being briefed by Defense Minister Willie O'Dea and the mission now requires Dail permission before the troops are transferred. Their tasks will include providing security in the capital, Freetown, for a special court set up by the UN and the local government to put on trial those charged with war crimes during the country's civil war between 1991 and 2002.



## **International Clips on West Africa**

### **Cote d'Ivoire's transitional prime minister takes office**

ABIDJAN, Dec 7, 2005 (Xinhua via COMTEX) -- Cote d'Ivoire's interim prime minister Charles Konan Banny was sworn in here on Wednesday to replace former Prime Minister Seydou Elimane Diarra. Banny's appointment was announced on Dec. 4 after Nigerian President and African Union chairman Olusegun Obasanjo, South African President Thabo Mbeki and Niger's President Mamadou Tandja held consultations with Cote d'Ivoire's political parties. The three mediators declared Banny's mandate will end in October 2006 when the next presidential election takes place.

## **Local Media – Newspapers**

### **President-Elect Halts Transfer of Maritime Funds**

*(The Inquirer)*

- According to sources, President-elect Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf has directed Liberia's Shipping Registry Corporation to halt disbursing funds to the Bureau of Maritime Affairs (BMA) until she assumes office in January 2006. Accordingly, the registry's managers have already communicated the directive to the BMA.

### **Defense Ministry Pays Retirement Benefits to Soldiers**

*(The News)*

- Briefing journalists following Tuesday's cabinet meeting, Information Minister William Allen said that the disbursement of severance pay and retirement benefits to soldiers of the Armed Forces of Liberia will commence in the coming week. He said the beneficiaries would be those enlisted in the AFL prior to outbreak of the civil war in 1990.

### **Two Arrested for Illegal Printing of Assembly Resolution**

*(The Analyst)*

- Briefing journalists yesterday, National Bureau of Investigation Director Anthony Kromah said that the Foreign Ministry's Director for Publications William Hookes and the Managing Director of the Yarka Printing Services James Marvey have been arrested in connection with the alleged printing of the National Transitional Legislative Assembly (NTLA) binding resolution which sought to transfer to members of the NTLA ownership of vehicles assigned to them. Meanwhile, sources said that members of the Assembly would today commence a debate seeking to reconsider the binding resolution.

### **Johnson-Sirleaf Visits U.S. on State Department's Invitation**

*(Daily Observer)*

- Following a recent tour of West African states, President-elect Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf departed Liberia yesterday on an official visit to the U.S. The invitation to Madame Johnson-Sirleaf was extended by U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

### **Refugee Women Hail President-Elect**

*(The Analyst)*

- According to *The Analyst* correspondent in Ghana, several women's groups in the Buduburam refugee camp have congratulated Mrs. Johnson-Sirleaf on her election as Africa's first female president. The women's leaders expressed confidence in Madame Johnson-Sirleaf's ability to perform.

## **Local Media – Radio Veritas** *(News monitored yesterday at 18:45 pm)*

### **Two Arrested for Illegal Printing of Interim Assembly's Resolution**

*(Also reported on Star Radio)*

### **Police Chief Says Politicians Are Interfering with Police Operations**

- Liberia National Police Inspector-General Joseph Kekula said that interference from politicians have impeded growth in the LNP and created many problems in the institution. He asked the police to resist such manipulations.

*(Also reported on Star Radio)*

### **Government of Liberia Takes Control of Controversial Rubber Plantation**

- In an interview yesterday, Deputy Agriculture Minister for Planning and Development Edwin Tetteh said that the Government—with the help of UNMIL--has regained control of the Guthrie Rubber Plantation formerly occupied by ex-combatants in Bomi County.

*(Also reported on Star Radio)*

**STAR RADIO** *(News culled from website today at 09:00 am)*

### **Diarrhea Breaks Out in Lofa County**

- Speaking to a Star Radio correspondent in Voinjama, Lofa County, government hospital Physician Assistant Robert Gaygay said that the Liberia-Guinea border town of Barkedu was facing an outbreak of diarrhea with four victims being transferred to Voinjama for treatment. He said that a team of county disease surveillance officers was dispatched to the community to extract samples from victims.

### **Charities Decry Increase in Human Trafficking in Liberia**

- At a news conference yesterday, Assemblies of God Charities Faith Consortium official Freddie Goe said that human trafficking was on the increase because it is being carried out under the pretext of adoption.

### **Two Men Arrested for Gang Rape**

- Police yesterday arrested two 20-year-old men for allegedly gang raping a 14-year old girl. The men also allegedly stuffed rags into her month. But Mark Morris James and Bah Kowi denied the allegation, police source told Star Radio.

*Complete versions of the UNMIL International Press Clips, UNMIL Daily Liberian Radio Summary and UNMIL Liberian Newspapers Summary are posted each day on the UNMIL Bulletin Board. If you are unable to access the UNMIL Bulletin Board or would like further information on the content of the summaries, please contact Mr. Jeddi Armah at [armahj@un.org](mailto:armahj@un.org).*

## **Notorious Liberian warlord reinvents himself as senator in war-battered country**

By TODD PITMAN, Associated Press Writer

MONROVIA Liberia

With an angry burst of AK-47 fire, he executed a pleading relief worker accused of profiteering. He chugged beer while his men infamously hacked off the ears of a captured president stripped to his underwear who begged unsuccessfully for life.

Once a powerful faction leader, more recently an evangelical preacher-in-exile, Prince Johnson helped drive Liberia into a catastrophic civil war. Today, he's a senator-elect promising to rebuild this West African nation and he is not the only lawmaker with a notorious past.

"We're talking about a new Liberia, a new future. We have an enormous job to do," Johnson said during a recent interview in Monrovia, shifting in a faux-leather chair at one of this bombed-out city's hotels. "The country is in ruin, total ruin. I've come back to help rebuild."

Johnson's brutal past is no secret, even if he says little now about his role in a war that took the lives of an estimated 200,000 people, turned millions into refugees and left even the capital without electricity or running water. The rise of Johnson and others tainted by charges of brutality or corruption raises could undermine Liberia's chances of recovering and building a democracy.

"Can they really turn around now and be a bastions of democracy? It's a big concern," said Corinne Dufka, a researcher at Human Rights watch.

In 1990, Johnson's militia captured President Samuel Doe and tortured him to death. A video of the event shows the just-captured leader half-naked, tied up and bloody, begging to be spared. Johnson orders the terrified leader's ears severed.

Around the same time, Johnson personally executed a Liberian relief worker he'd accused of profiteering from rice sales, calling him a "traitor." An Associated Press photographer who witnessed the scene reported the crumpled victim briefly lifted his head and asked "Why, why?" before Johnson finished him off.

During the war, Johnson also reportedly summarily executed some of his own commanders and briefly took 22 foreigners hostage in a bid to provoke international intervention.

"My regret is that we fought one another for nothing. It was a senseless war," Johnson said. "Whatever reason I may give you now for getting involved in the war, it does not erase the fact that this country was destroyed and needs to be rebuilt."

The war ended two years ago when warlord-turned-president Charles Taylor stepped down amid a rebel mortar barrage on the capital. Johnson's militia fought fierce street battles with Taylor's forces in the early 1990s, but he left in 1992 and became an evangelical preacher in Nigeria's Christ Deliverance Ministry in Lagos. A simple mustache and red cap have replaced his scraggly wartime beard and military fatigues.

Johnson returned for the first time last year.

In October, Liberians elected 30 senators and 64 representatives who take office in January under a government led by president-elect, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf. Founded by freed American slaves in 1847, Liberia's bicameral legislature is modeled on that of the United States.

Sitting alongside Johnson in the new legislature will be Adolphus Dolo, a Taylor commander known as Gen. Peanut Butter, who campaigned on the slogan: "Let him butter your bread."

U.S.-based Human Rights Watch has gathered testimony from witnesses who accuse Dolo of recruiting child soldiers during the war, and supporting rebel attacks on civilians in neighboring Ivory Coast's own conflict in 2003. His troops also carried out extra-judicial killings.

Also elected to the senate was Charles Taylor's wife, Jewel Howard-Taylor. She, along with two other legislators-elect is under a U.N. travel ban and assets freeze for constituting "a threat to the peace process in Liberia."

Taylor, in exile in Nigeria, has been indicted on war crimes charges by the U.N.-backed special court in Sierra Leone for his role in supporting that country's own brutal rebels.

U.N. officials, as well as President-elect Johnson-Sirleaf, say Johnson and others were free to run for office because they had not been charged by Liberian courts with any crimes.

"All of them have been elected ... in a free and fair democratic process, and unless there are charges that come from someone affected or aggrieved, there will be nothing I can do," Johnson-Sirleaf, the first woman elected president in Africa, told The Associated Press.

Johnson has strong support in his native Nimba County. He garnered 34 percent of the vote there, more than any other senator in the country. Dolo took the second Nimba County seat with 17 percent in a field of 15.

Johnson is still popular among many for taking a stand against Taylor and overthrowing Doe.

Poor human rights records have never been an obstacle to gaining high office here. Taylor took the presidency in a landslide vote in 1997 that was deemed fair though many believe he won because of fears he would re-ignite war if he lost.

"It's embarrassing," said 24-year-old Mamadou Kromah, one of several young men selling video CDs documenting Liberia's horrific war-history including images of the ex-warlord overseeing Doe's torture. "Prince Johnson should be put on trial, not put into office."

## Croatian fugitive general seized

**A Croatian general charged with war crimes has been held in Spain, the UN's chief war crimes prosecutor has said.**

Ante Gotovina was one of the most wanted men from the 1990s Balkan wars.

He is accused of war crimes against Serb civilians during a Croatian offensive to expel Serb forces from the country in 1995.

Carla Del Ponte, chief prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, had repeatedly sought Gen Gotovina's detention.

Gen Gotovina was arrested on Wednesday night in the Canary Islands, Ms Del Ponte said, and was due to be transferred to The Hague.

Spanish officials indicated that he could appear at an extradition hearing in Madrid as early as Thursday.

He was held in a hotel in the Tenerife resort of Playa de las Americas after being followed for several days, the Spanish news agency EFE reported.

### **Stabbed, shot, burned**

Speaking in the Serbian capital, Belgrade, Ms Del Ponte said she hoped Gen Gotovina's detention would speed up efforts to arrest Bosnian Serb fugitives Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic.

#### **GEN ANTE GOTOVINA**

Born 12 Oct 1955  
Fought in French Foreign Legion  
Commanded Croatian forces against Serb forces in Krajina region, 1995  
Early retirement, 2000  
Indicted for war crimes in Krajina, 2001  
Arrested in Tenerife, Dec 2005

Throughout the tribunal's efforts to track him down, Gen Gotovina has maintained support from a wide section of the Croatian public, some of whom regard him as a national hero.

Gen Gotovina, 50, was indicted for crimes against humanity by the war crimes tribunal in 2001.

He is alleged to have failed to prevent the murder of 150 Serbs killed by shooting, stabbing or burning during Operation Storm, the August 1995 push against Serb forces in Croatia's Krajina region.

The indictment also accuses him of co-ordinating a campaign of plunder and looting throughout operations in ethnically Serb areas of the region.

He was sent into early retirement in 2000 when Croatia promised to investigate allegations of war crimes among its military during the 1990s.

Croatia has claimed that he subsequently fled the country. He vowed never to turn himself in.

### **'Good news'**

Croatian Prime Minister Ivo Sanader hailed the arrest as a sign of Croatia's international "credibility".

"I would like to say that those who believed us when we said that Gotovina was not in Croatia have today received the final and complete confirmation," he said.

In Brussels, Nato Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer described the arrest of Gen Gotovina as "good news for the world, for bringing people to justice who are not yet convicted but are accused of very serious crimes".

Ms Del Ponte had previously criticised Zagreb's efforts to arrest the general.

The controversy delayed the start of talks on Croatian membership of the European Union, although the green light was finally given after Ms Del Ponte said she was satisfied with Croatian co-operation with the tribunal.

Story from BBC NEWS:  
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/europe/4510122.stm>

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## **African Union: Support Habré's Extradition to Belgium**

### *Creating Ad Hoc Tribunal to Try Ex-Dictator of Chad Would Be Too Costly, Slow*

(Brussels, December 9, 2005) – Now that Senegal has placed the case of Hissène Habré in the hands of the African Union, African leaders should recommend the extradition of the former Chadian dictator to Belgium, where he is wanted to stand trial for crimes against humanity, Human Rights Watch said today in a study of the various options for bringing Habré to justice.

The creation of a new African tribunal would be too distant, too contingent, and too costly, Human Rights Watch said. The study also ruled out Habré's return to Chad because of the risks to Habré's own security and the difficulties of ensuring that he would receive a fair trial. Senegal, where Habré was indicted in 2000, has already said that it will not try the case.

On November 27, Senegalese Foreign Minister Cheikh Tidiane Gadio said that it was "up to the African Union summit to indicate the jurisdiction which is competent to hear the case." The summit is scheduled to be held in Khartoum on January 23-24.

"Extraditing Habré to Belgium is the most realistic option for ensuring a prompt and fair trial," said Reed Brody of Human Rights Watch, who coordinates the international campaign for the Chadian victims. "Creating an ad hoc African tribunal to try Habré would entail enormous political will, years of delay and costs of at least \$100 million."

On September 19, a Belgian judge issued an international arrest warrant charging Habré with crimes against humanity, war crimes, torture, and serious violations of international humanitarian law. After Habré's arrest in Senegal on November 15, a Senegalese court on November 25 said that it had no jurisdiction to rule on the extradition request, throwing the case into a legal limbo. Senegal then asked the African Union to decide jurisdiction over the case.

Human Rights Watch noted that Habré's victims have been waiting for fifteen years to find a court to hear their case, and that it has been almost six years since they filed the first suit in Senegal. Many of the victims have died since then, including one of the plaintiffs in the Senegal case, and one of the lead plaintiffs in Belgium, both of whom died as a result of their mistreatment under Habré.

"This case must not become a political football," said Brody. "Habré's victims have suffered too much and waited too long to find a court willing to listen to them. Belgium is ready and able to hear the case."

Human Rights Watch noted that the Chadian government has consistently supported Habré's extradition to Belgium. In 2002, the Chadian justice minister wrote to the Belgian investigating judge to state that "Mr. Hissène Habré can not claim to enjoy any form of immunity from the Chadian authorities." The Libyan foreign minister, Mohamed Tahar Siala, said last week that the African Union should respect the Chadian government's wishes and recommend extradition to Belgium.

Human Rights Watch said if an African country sought Hissène Habré's extradition, this might also be a viable option. The country would need to have an independent judiciary with jurisdiction over the crimes, adhere to international fair trial standards, not impose the death penalty and, preferably, be a Francophone country. In order not to delay the trial for years, however, an arrangement would need to be devised to permit the courts of that country to adopt the results of the four-year Belgian investigation and admit them into evidence.



## Background

Hissène Habré ruled the former French colony of Chad from 1982 until 1990, when he was deposed by current President Idriss Déby and fled to Senegal. His one-party regime was marked by widespread atrocities. Habré periodically targeted various ethnic groups such as the Sara (1983-84), Chadian Arabs, Hadjerai (1987), and the Zaghawa (1989-90), killing and arresting group members en masse when he believed that their leaders posed a threat to his regime. Files of Hissène Habré's political police, the DDS (*Direction de la Documentation et de la Sécurité*), discovered by Human Rights Watch in 2001, reveal the names of 1,208 persons who died in detention. A total of 12,321 victims of different abuses were mentioned. In these files alone, Hissène Habré received 1,265 direct communications from the DDS about the status of 898 detainees.

In February 2000, a Senegalese court charged Habré with torture and crimes against humanity and placed him under house arrest. But in March 2001, Senegal's highest court said that Habré could not stand trial in Senegal for crimes allegedly committed elsewhere. Habré's victims immediately announced that they would seek Habré's extradition to Belgium, where twenty-one of Habré's victims had filed suit. A four-year investigation by a Belgian judge resulted in an international arrest warrant against Habré on September 19, 2005 and his arrest in Senegal on November 15. On November 25, a Senegalese court said that it had no jurisdiction to rule on the extradition request.

The study "Options for Hissène Habré to Face Justice" can be found, during the embargo period, at <http://embargo.hrw.org/backgrounder/english/chad1205/>

Login: options

Passwd: habre

Once the embargo period has passed, the briefing paper will be available at:  
<http://hrw.org/backgrounder/africa/chad1205/>

Information on the Habré case can be found at <http://www.hrw.org/justice/habre/>

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